

## Andrew Jackson to Edward Livingston, June 12, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

TO EDWARD LIVINGSTON.

Nashville, June 12, 1815.

*D'r Sir:* I am anxiously awaiting a line from you advising when you will be on your way to the city, in my last I stated, I would make my visit convenient to you,—?will you pass by land or water.

I am sorry to be troublesome, but I have to request that you will get your son to measure the line of defence below Neworleans exactly—stating the distance from the river to Capt Humphries Battery—and from his to the next on his left, and so on to the swamp—designating, the Precise spot occupied by each corps, the 32 lb. Bateria was the left of the 44th and the right of Genl. Carrols Brigade, and the 9½ Inch howit[zer] was placed to defend the mergin of the swamp. I wish this done exactly, and the distance from the river to the half moon in the breastworks which was covered by the left of Genl carrols division stated precisely, and have it forwarded to me as early as possible. be pleased to ask Major Davasac whether the miniature was got and handed commodore Patterson—whether he has recd my letter with the money inclosed for this purpose. I am verry anxious that you should be on with me at the city.

From Mr Duncans last letter, I did calculate that the report of the trial on the attachment would have been out before this, I would be glad to carry it on with me to the city.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The reference is to Abner L. Duncan, one of Jackson's volunteer aides in New Orleans and a lawyer of great repute. June 23, 1815, Duncan wrote to Jackson as follows: "My last

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letter, which could not have reached you before the 12th inst. will explain to you and I hope satisfactorily why my answer to the report has been deferred. By next mail I hope to be able to furnish such evidence as will place the disgrace of our holy Legislature beyond all doubt. I will address to Nashville and the seat of Govt. I hope our friend Reid may be able to accompany you to Washington and continue one of your suite until you again visit a city that can never forget your service."

The following affidavit by Captain Thomas L. Butler, made in Nashville, May 23, 1815, was evidently taken with the same general purpose:

"Personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the Town of Nashville of Thomas L. Butler who deposeth and saith that some time about the first of January last past, whilst he (the deponent) was acting as Aid de Camp to Majr Genl. Jackson and quatered in the city of New Orleans, Mr. Skipwith the Speaker of the Senate of the State of Louissiana came to the Quarters of the deponent, and after entering into conversation with him, enquired whether he (the deponent) had heard Genl. Jackson say, as whether he (the deponent) believed in case he the genl. were compelled to abandon his lines of defence below the City of New Orleans that he (the genl) would rather than yeild the city to the enemy, lay it waste. The deponent replied that he had never conversed with the Genl. on the subject, That he did not know his opinion on the same, nor if he did, would he conceive himself at liberty to divulge it. Mr. Skipwith replied that he had heard such report, but did not himself accredit it. Yet if it were possible that such were the entention of the Genl, he Mr. Skipwith would conceive the State authorities (or Representatives of the poeple) entirely Justifiable in making the best terms they could for the security of the city. This conversation did not at the time make upon the deponent any particular impression. But he has since thought that Mr. Skipwith intended to convey the idea that the Legislature of the state (then in Session) would be Justifiable in making terms with the enemy. Certified by me Jno Goodrich J Peace"

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with my best wishes for the health and happiness of you and your family believe me to be  
very respectfully, yr mo. ob. serv.